

COVER SHEET FOR AMENDMENT OF POST-TRAVEL SUBMISSION

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Instructions: Use this form as a cover sheet for any paperwork you may need to submit to the Office of Public Records in order to make your Privately Sponsored Post-Travel Submission complete in accordance with Rule 35. **Only complete this form if you need to submit an amendment to a post-travel filing you have already submitted.**

SUBMIT DIRECTLY TO THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC RECORDS IN 232 HART BUILDING

Name of Traveler: Bret Sparks
Employing Office/Committee: Senator Roger Wicker
Travel Expenses Paid by (List all sources): Restore or Retreat
Travel Date(s): 3/27/18 to 3/28/18
Description/Title of Attached Forms: Agenda (Final) for Congressional Staff Trip to Coastal Louisiana.

Purpose of Amendment (describe the reason for amending original submission): Not included in original final submission packet.

5/25/18
(Date)

[Signature]
(Signature of Traveler)

Itinerary

Purpose: To educate Congressional offices on Louisiana's land loss crisis and the Coastal Master Plan to address it; discuss Gulf-wide collaboration and federal agency involvement in the effort; and demonstrate national economic importance of restoration, specifically by highlighting Port Fourchon operations, development and involvement in restoration activities.

Sponsoring Organizations: Restore or Retreat, the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (State Government), Greater Lafourche Port Commission (Local Government)

Partnering Organization: SouthWings

Attire: Casual. For boat tours, please wear appropriate shoes and bring sun protection.

Tuesday

- 7:00 – 11:24 am:** **United Airlines Flight #605 DCA to ORD & United Airlines Flight #621 ORD to MSY**
Contact for arrivals: Simone Maloz (Restore or Retreat) will meet the delegation at baggage claim #7 with a sign reading "Welcome Congressional Delegation" and will proceed to the bus.
Simone cell: 985-688-3290
- 12:00 – 12:30 pm:** **Chartered Bus to Davis Pond**
Program: Welcome, introductions and presentation by Steve Cochran, Restore the Mississippi River Delta: Framing an Issue of National Importance
- 12:30 – 3:30 pm:** **Lunch Briefing and Davis Pond Tour**
Participants will pre-select lunch from Cochon Butcher.
Program: Briefing at diversion structure by Erin Plitsch and John Troutman (CPRA) and viewing of outfall area followed by airboat tour narrated by Simone Maloz. Includes observations of beneficial freshwater into the area and benefits of proactive conservation management, as well as discussion on possible legislation needed for future adaptive management and appropriations.
- The Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion was authorized in the Flood Control Act of 1928, recently amended in the 1996 Water Resources Development Act. It is located in St. Charles Parish on the west bank of the Mississippi River, about 15 miles upstream of New Orleans. The project was designed to divert fresh water, with its accompanying nutrients and sediments, from the Mississippi River into rapidly eroding the Barataria Basin – reducing saltwater intrusion and establishing favorable salinity conditions, thus combating land loss. We will tour the diversion structure along the river, and then, via airboat, tour the*

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4:30 pm:

Check in at International House

4:45 pm:

Location: 616 St. Peter Street New Orleans, LA 70116

Briefing

6:00 – 8:00 pm:

Program: Remarks and Briefing on Louisiana's Coastal Master Plan from Charles Sutcliffe, Governor's Office of Coastal Activities

Wednesday

7:45 – 8:00 am:

8:00 – 9:30 am:

Program: Flight path preview and preflight briefing by David Muth
Light breakfast will be served on the bus.

9:30 – 10:30 am:

Program: Each plane will contain a guide who will narrate the flyover and highlight both the problem and projects underway to address it. Details below on flyover details; discussion will cover observations to eroding landscape and ramifications to the local environment and economy, as well as local, state, and federal efforts planned to restore the area and associated dialogue on how to implement projects, including and especially permitting.

After taking off from Galliano Airport, the flyover will take passengers through the Barataria Basin, over the proposed Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion site, and then west over the Morganza to the Gulf levee system in Terrebonne Parish. Participants will also see projects constructed with Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration Act Funding.

After crossing the eroding marshes of eastern Terrebonne, the passengers will see a stunning aerial view of the growing deltas of the Atchafalaya River and Wax Lake Outlet. Headed back east, the route then includes a flyover of the barrier islands and constructed Caminada Headland project.

9:30am – 10:30 am:

Group Two: Tour of USDA NRCS Plant Materials Center –Scientific Challenges of Coastal Restoration

Program: Tour of USDA NRCS Plant Materials Center in Galliano narrated by Garrett Thomassie (USDA NRCS). Includes dialogue on NRCS's role in developing biological solutions to coastal restoration challenges and tour of their plant propagation facilities followed by Presentation on Roseau Cane by Todd Baker of Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Rodrigo Diaz of the LSU AgCenter.

Recently detected large-scale die-offs of Roseau cane are threatening Louisiana's coast, ecosystems and economy. A correlation has been detected between the die-offs and the presence of an invasive scale insect. This impact is being seen in the Mississippi River Delta and other coastal areas of Louisiana. Roseau cane helps to protect our marsh, coastal areas and the Mississippi River channel from erosion, reduces storm surge, protects oil and gas pipelines, and provides habitat for fisheries and migratory birds. In order to determine the best approach for combating the wide-scale loss of Roseau cane along the Louisiana gulf coast, a multi-agency effort is underway. The LSU AgCenter, in cooperation with Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers have developed a research proposal, currently underway, to understand the cause of the die-offs.

First Group: Coastal Flyover to/from Galliano

10:45am – 12:00 pm:

Group Two: Coastal Flyover to Galliano
See above.

10:45 – 12:00 pm:

Group One: Tour of USDA NRCS Plant Materials Center – Scientific Challenges of Coastal Restoration
See above.

12:00 – 12:30 pm:

Travel to Port Fourchon/Windshield Tour of South Lafourche

Program: Windshield tour to view Larose to Golden Meadow Hurricane Protection system, the degraded marshes outside the levee system, and the elevated LA-1 highway project narrated by Simone Maloz and Joni Tuck (Greater Lafourche Port Commission). Includes dialogue on concerns related to implementation of projects, including mitigation and permitting processes, and impact restoration of area will have on local, state, and national economies.

12:30 – 1:15 pm:

Seafood Lunch at Emergency Operations Center of Port Fourchon

1:15 – 1:45 pm:

Port Presentation – Energy and Environment

Program: Port presentation from Chett Chiasson (Port Fourchon.)

Port Fourchon plays a strategic role in furnishing the country with about 18% of its entire oil supply. While the Greater Lafourche Port Commission actively pursues its purpose of stimulating commercial development, it accepts as part of its mission the responsibility of acknowledging the environmental value of the setting in which Port Fourchon is located. The Port Commission works diligently to protect and restore the coastal landscape and habitats the surround it.

2:00 – 3:00 pm:

Caminada Beach Tour

Program: Participants will view the 7 miles of restored beach and dune habitat narrated by Darin Lee (CPRA). Remarks from Tanner Johnson (National Fish and Wildlife Foundation).

The Caminada Headland Beach and Dune Restoration Project is located south and east of Port Fourchon in Lafourche Parish which represents the largest investment to date by the State of Louisiana in a single beach or barrier island restoration project. The headland is a 14-mile-long undeveloped beach that stretches from West Belle Pass on the west to Caminada Pass on the east, protecting Port Fourchon, providing critical beach and dune habitat for nesting shorebirds, and accommodating culturally significant recreational activities in the form of fishing, crabbing, and beachcombing. This project has received federal funding through the Coastal Impact Assistance Program and the Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration Act. It has also received funding through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, which was

created by Congress in 1984.

3:00 – 4:30 pm:

Boat Tour of Port Fourchon

Program: Waterside tour of Port Fourchon led by Chett Chiasson. Discussion will include legislation and approval needed by federal entities for port growth, as well as explanation of synergies between energy and environment.

Waterside tour of Port facilities will include an up-close look at current development, large scale offshore services facilities, as well as the first LNG vessel fueling station in the US. Participants will see the Port's mitigation area, maritime forest ridge in the distance, as well as the West Belle Pass project and Caminada Headlands on our way out to the jetties. While in that reach, Chett will also talk about planned port expansion, and how deepening their channel will yield up to 35 million cubic yards of material to be used largely for restoration works across the region over and above the Port's planned development and associated mitigation.

4:30 – 6:00 pm:

Chartered Bus to MSY

7:20 – 10:40 pm:

Southwest Airlines Flight #452